けんじ
SS comics
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20

浅見
20
原作 松田隆智
作画 藤原芳秀

第1話
鉄頭王
CHAPTER 1: TIETOU WANG

HENAN PROVINCE ~ HUI
(MOSLEM) PEOPLE'S VILLAGE

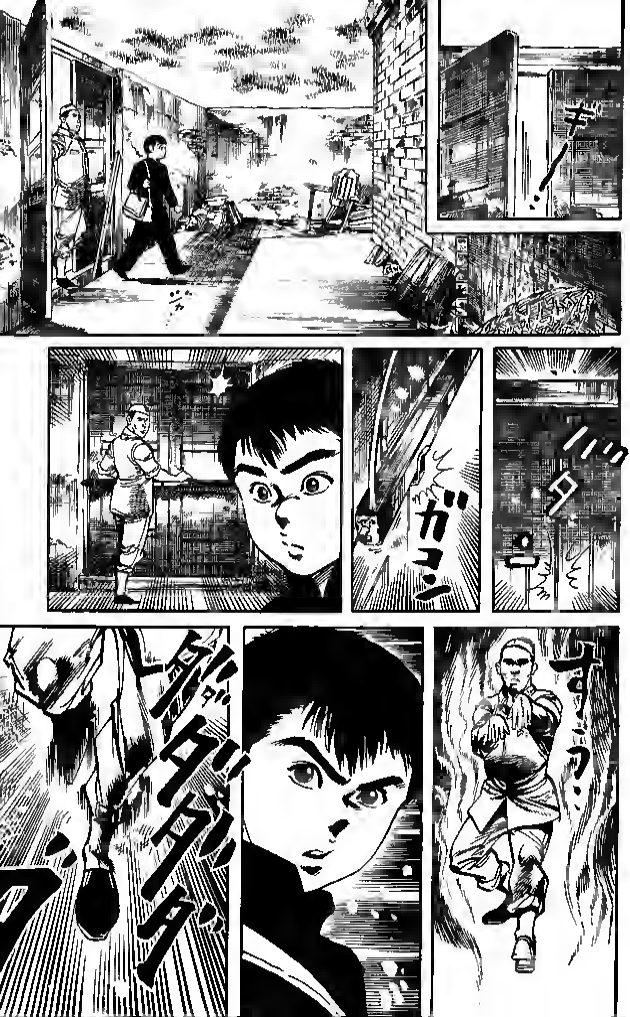
清真
蘭州牛肉麵

ズズ!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE I MIGHT BE ABLE TO MEET HIM?
MISTER...
MEET HIM? BOY, WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
FROM JAPAN.
YES.
DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO TEACHES XINYILIU-HEQUAN IN THIS AREA?

NEVER HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE.
I'M TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE, NOT TO LEARN KUNGFU.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE THEY WON'T TEACH IT TO ANYONE BUT A HUI.
MAYBE HE KNOWS.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE AHONG (IMAM) AT THE QINGZHENSI (MOSQUE) ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN?
HE'S ALSO A FOREIGNER, HIS NAME IS TONY TAN.

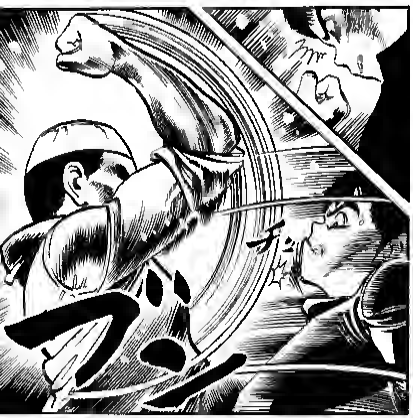
HEY, WAIT.
FOLLOW ME.
YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT TONY TAN AT THAT NOODLE SHOP. ARE YOU AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS?
UH, WELL, I GUESS SO...


ゴゴゴ
ガコン
ダダダダダ
ダッ!

XINYILIUHEQUAN
HENGQUAN
WHOA
!!
XINYILIUHEQUAN
TIAOLING

UOH
WHAT'S WITH THIS, ALL OF A SUDDEN !?
PLEASE, WAIT A MOMENT!!
HE'S AMAZ-INGLY THICK-HEADED !!

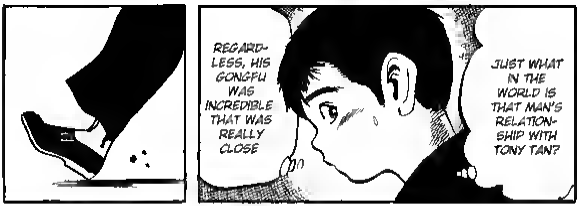
XINYILIUHEQUAN
SHUANGBA
NOW I'M REALLY ANGRY!!



UOOH

ドガ——……
?
!!
HEY BOY, DID YOU JUST KNOCK OUT MA DAYUAN, THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE AREA?
AH, WELL, NOT REALLY HE CRASHED HEADFIRST INTO THE WALL, AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED
HUH? IF IT ISN'T THE TIETOU WANG (IRON-HEADED KING), MA DAYUAN!

IN THAT CASE, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
BOY, YOU'D BETTER GET OUTTA HERE. IT'LL BE TROUBLE IF HIS FRIENDS SHOW UP.


REGARD-LESS, HIS GONGFU WAS INCREDIBLE THAT WAS REALLY CLOSE
JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT MAN'S RELATION-SHIP WITH TONY TAN?

!
HERE IT IS.

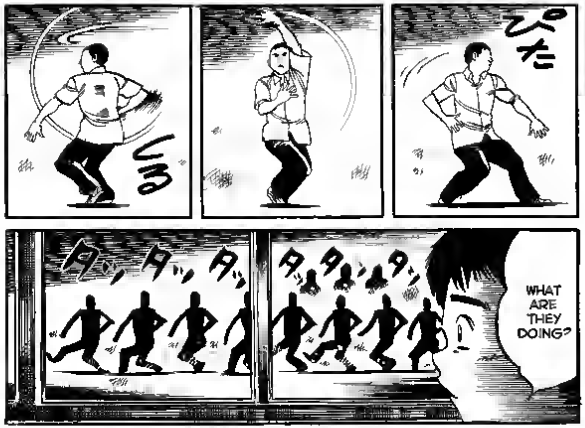
IS THE AHONG IN, BY ANY CHANCE?
QINGWEN (IF I MAY ASK SOMETHING)
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
I'M THE AHONG HERE
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW SOMEONE NAMED TONY TAN?
WHAT?

WHO IS LU RUIFA-SAN?
HE'S THE OLDEST XINYILIU-HEQUAN TEACHER IN THIS REGION.
I DON'T KNOW HIM, BUT MAYBE LU RUIFA-LAOSHI DOES.
HE'LL BE HERE SOON, JUST WAIT IN THAT ROOM.
……
IT'S TAKING A WHILE.

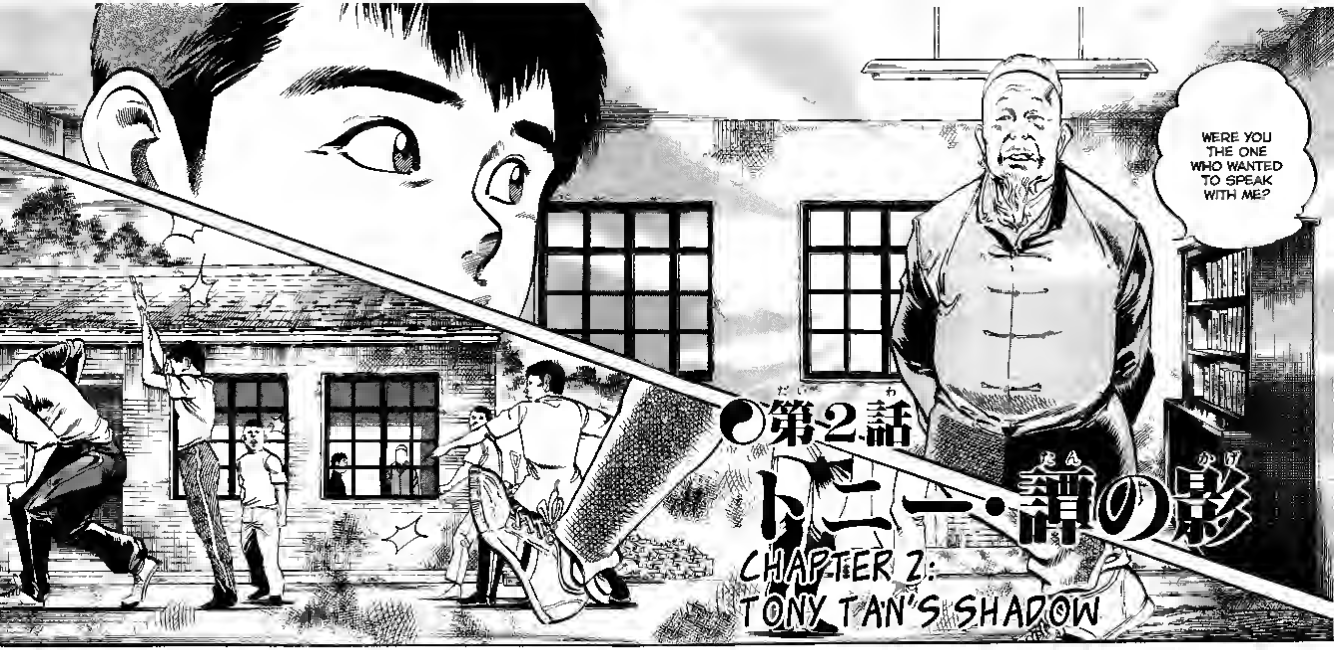
タッ タッ タッ タッ
タッ タッ タッ
タッ タッ タッ タッ
WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE?
DID THE AHONG COME BACK?
タッ タッ タッ
ガバ
タッ タッ
タッ タッ
タッ タッ

XINYILIUHEQUAN
JIHANGBU

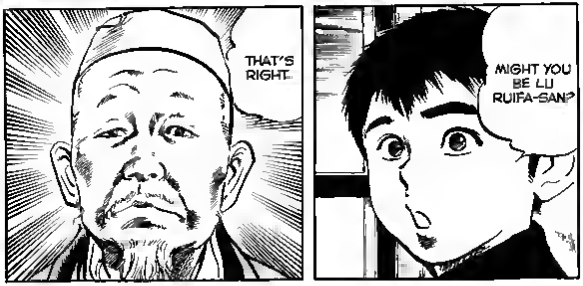
NEXT, ZHONG MENTOU!
AH, THE TIETOU WANG FROM EARLIER!


WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

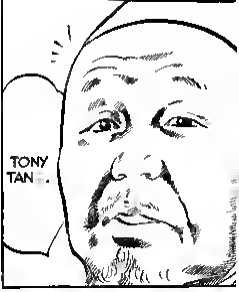
グ
HIH
WHAT DO YOU NEED WITH ME?
WHAT STRANGE MOVE-MENTS

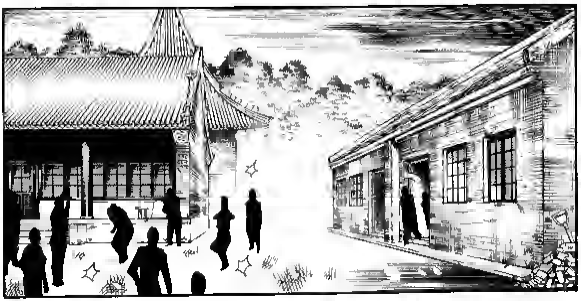

WERE YOU THE ONE WHO WANTED TO SPEAK WITH ME?
第2話
トニー・譚の影
CHAPTER 2:
TONY TAN'S SHADOW

ACTUALLY, I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE BY THE NAME OF TONY TAN
IT IS NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS GOH KENJI, FROM JAPAN.


THAT'S RIGHT.
MIGHT YOU BE LU RUIFA-SAN?

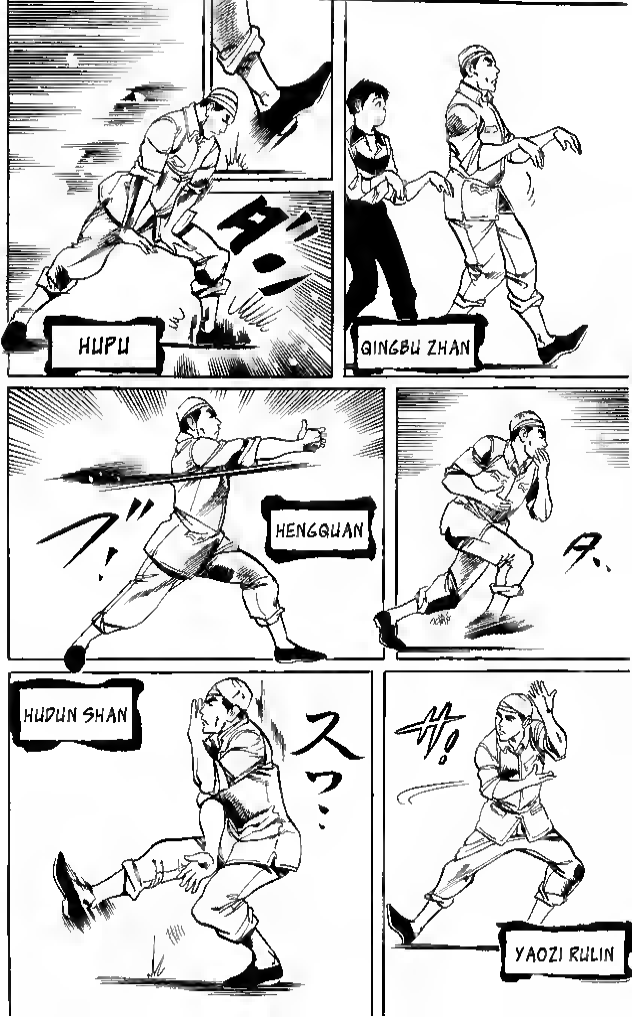
HUH!
THAT WORKS OUT THEN. WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE GROUP OF LOCALS TRAINING XINYILIU-HEQUAN OUTSIDE.


TONY TAN.



EVERYONE, THERE'S SOME-THING WE'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.

ABOUT THIS MORNING, SORRY...
AH! IT'S YOU!!
HE SAYS HE'S LOOKING FOR A MAN NAMED TONY TAN
THIS BOY IS JAPANESE. HIS NAME IS GOH KENJI
LU-LAOSHI, YOU KNOW THIS STUPID KID!?
WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TONY TAN?
TONY TAN IS OUR ENEMY!
ガヤガヤ
WELL, IT'S A BIT OF A LONG STORY.
WE WANNA KNOW WHERE THAT BASTARD IS TOO!!


HUPU
QINGBU ZHAN
HENGQUAN
HUDUN SHAN
YAOZI RULIN

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...

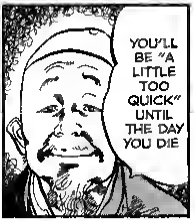
...

OWWW!
Ha Ha

ガッガ...
I GUESS I WAS A LITTLE TOO QUICK TO JUDGE.

...

HE HE HE
He He He...

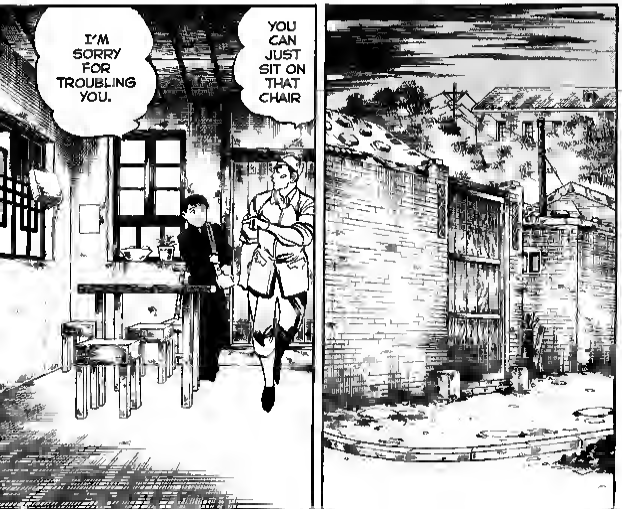

YOU'LL BE "A LITTLE TOO QUICK" UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE

YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR TONY TAN AS HE IS NOW.
HOWEVER, GOH KENJI,

I'M NOT GOING HOME
IF I DON'T SETTLE THIS MATTER, MANY MORE PEOPLE WILL SUFFER
EVEN I, WHO PEOPLE CALL THE STRONGEST MAN IN HENAN,
MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM.
I THINK YOU'RE BETTER OFF GOING BACK TO JAPAN BEFORE YOU GET HURT TOO BADLY
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR RESOLVE IS SET
SAY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT TEACHING XINYILIUHEQUAN TO THIS BOY?

HUH!
YOU WANT ME TO TEACH IT TO A FOREIGNER OF ANOTHER RELIGION!?
SUN ZI (AN ANCIENT CHINESE WAR STRATEGIST) ONCE SAID "IF YOU KNOW YOUR ENEMIES AND KNOW YOURSELF, YOU WILL NOT BE IMPERILED IN A HUNDRED BATTLES."
MAYBE HE COULD FIND A WAY TO WIN IF WE TEACH HIM XINYILIUHE-QUAN
THIS BOY IS RISKING HIS LIFE.
JUDGING BY THAT BANDAGE ON YOUR HEAD, I CAN SEE YOU TWO EXCHANGED QUITE THE INTRODUCTIONS.
WHAT'S MORE, YOU AND HE SEEM TO BE LINKED BY FATE.

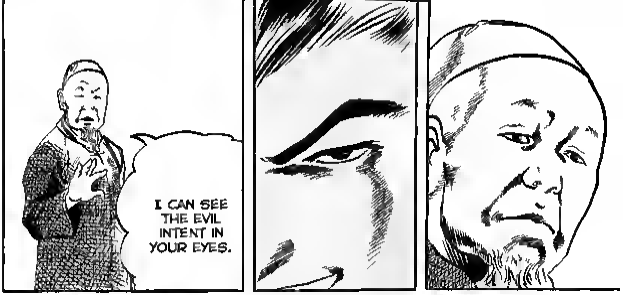
OWWW!
HE HE HE
MA DAYUAN LIVES ON HIS OWN. WHY DON'T YOU STAY AT HIS PLACE.

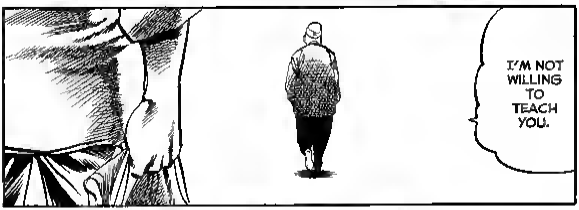

I'M SORRY FOR TROUBLING YOU.
YOU CAN JUST SIT ON THAT CHAIR

I ASSUMED YOU WERE ONE OF TONY TAN'S COMRADES
IT WAS STILL PRETTY CLOSE.
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON WHO'S MANAGED TO DODGE THAT STRIKE
I THOUGHT YOUR BODY-STRIKE WAS REALLY AMAZING
I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT. I WAS SERIOUSLY DEFENDING MYSELF.
I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS BANGED UP BEFORE.
NO NO, THAT PUNCH OF YOURS WAS ALSO PRETTY IMPRESSIVE
HA HA HA HA
FORGET ABOUT IT.

AH
WHAA
ズズ…

YOU'VE MADE AN ENEMY OF THE WRONG PERSON.
HOW-EVER,
HE CAME TO THIS REGION ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO.
HAS TONY TAN REALLY BECOME THAT STRONG?
I'M TONY TAN FROM AMERICA.
YOU MUST BE LU RUIFA-LAOSHI.
PLEASE TEACH ME XINYI-LIUHE-QUAN.


I CAN SEE THE EVIL INTENT IN YOUR EYES.


I'M NOT WILLING TO TEACH YOU.

TONY TAN KEPT SEARCHING FOR A TEACHER AFTER THAT,
AND WAS FINALLY ABLE TO LEARN XINYI LIUHEQUAN FROM SOMEONE

THAT SOMEONE WAS A FORMER DISCIPLE OF LU-LAOSHI'S. HE WAS EXPELLED FROM THE DOJO DUE TO HIS INABILITY TO CONTROL HIS TEMPER.
TONY TAN KEPT TRAINING AS IF HE WAS POSSESSED, AND IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.
TONY TAN HELD A GRUDGE FROM BEING REFUSED AS LU-LAOSHI'S DISCIPLE.
SO HE STARTED HARASSING ALL OF US, LU-LAOSHI'S OTHER DISCIPLES.
THEN ONE DAY...
HEY, ARE YOU TONY TAN!?
GET HIM!

MY DIDIZI (KOUHAI, JUNIOR DISCIPLES) COULDN'T STAND TONY TAN'S ACTIONS AND INTENDED TO BEAT HIM DOWN, BUT INSTEAD WERE EASILY DEFEATED BY HIM.
I RUSHED TO THE VILLAGE WHERE HE LIVED AS SOON AS I HEARD THAT NEWS, BUT HE HAD ALREADY LEFT.
ダダダ

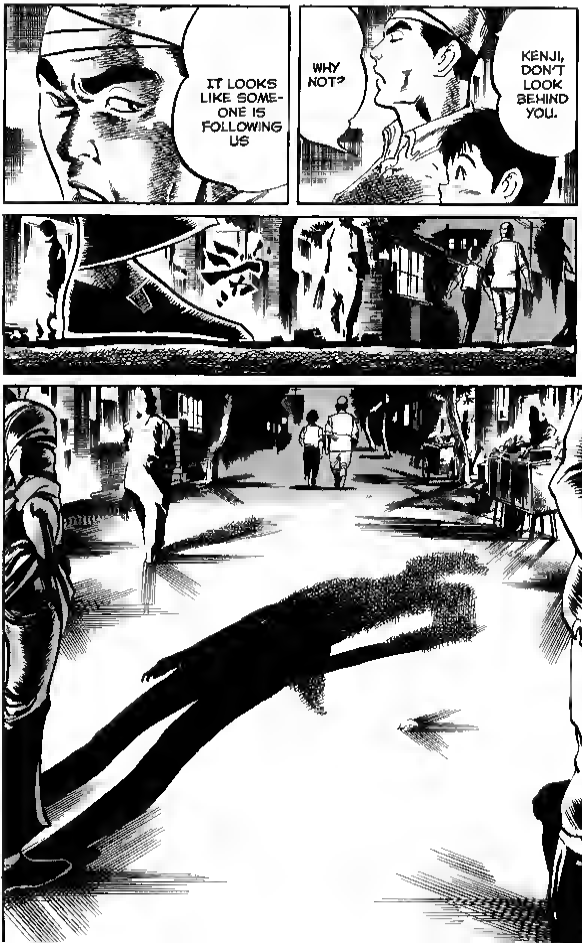
WHICH TECHNIQUE DID MAI ZHUANGTU USE THAT TIME?
IT WAS A SOFT TECHNIQUE CALLED YUNBI RIYUE BA.
MAI ZHUANGTU
YUAN FENGYI
XIANG XUELI
LU RUIPA
LU-LAOSHI IS THE SUCCESSOR TO THAT MAI ZHUANGTU'S KUNGFU
I THOUGHT ALL OF XINYILIUHEQUAN'S TECHNIQUES ARE HARD TECHNIQUES.
ALTHOUGH, YOU ARE MUCH BETTER AT THE HARD TECHNIQUES THAN THE SOFTER ONES.
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE, YOU SHOULD TEACH KENJI THAT TECHNIQUE.
"GANGROU XIANGJI (HARD AND SOFT HELP EACH OTHER)" IS THE PRINCIPLE OF ALL MARTIAL ARTS

YUNBI RIYUE BA
STRANGE. IT FELT LIKE SOMEONE WAS SPYING ON US

ゴオオ…

HE MUST'VE HEARD SOME RUMORS ABOUT YOU AND STARTED LOOKING FOR YOU.
LU-LAOSHI TEACHING XINYILIUHEQUAN TO A FOREIGNER OF A DIFFERENT RELIGION IS BIG NEWS. NO DOUBT TONY TANY WILL HEAR ABOUT IT.
SOONER OR LATER, HE WILL COME HERE.

GET READY, I WILL TRAIN YOU HARD STARTING TOMORROW.
IN ORDER TO MATCH HIM, YOU HAVE TO MASTER XINYILIUHE-QUAN.


IT LOOKS LIKE SOME-ONE IS FOLLOWING US
WHY NOT?
KENJI, DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU.

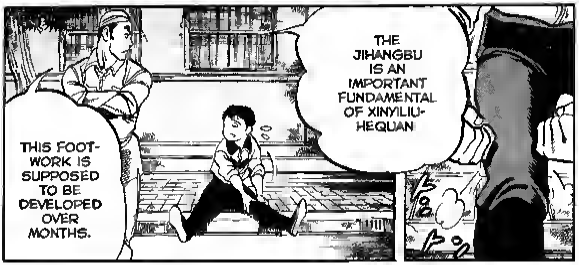
第3話 心意六合拳

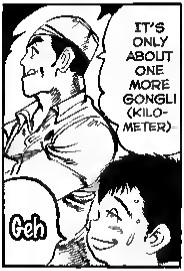
CHAPTER 3: XINYILIUHEQUAN

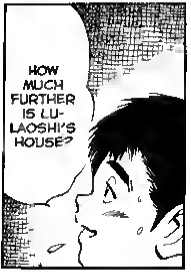
◉第3話

心意六合拳

HO, HOLD ON FOR A SEC. MY LEG'S CRAMPING.
HUH, GIVING UP ALREADY?


THE JIHANGBU IS AN IMPORTANT FUNDAMENTAL OF XINYILIU-HEQUAN
THIS FOOT-WORK IS SUPPOSED TO BE DEVELOPED OVER MONTHS.


IT'S ONLY ABOUT ONE MORE GONGLI (KILO-METER)
Geh


HOW MUCH FURTHER IS LU-LAOSHI'S HOUSE?

LU RUIFA'S RESIDENCE
LU-LAOSHI, WHAT SHOULD I START WITH IN TEACHING GOH KENJI?
Hah
Hah
Hah
Hah

IN ORDER TO GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF XINYILIUHEQUAN IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME,
THE ONLY OPTION IS TO LEARN THE SIBA CHUI AND SHIDA XING.
TEACH HIM THE SIBA-CHUI.
HUH?
I UNDERSTAND
KENJI, LET'S START

TIAOLING
THIS IS A TAOLU CALLED SIBACHUI TRY AND WORK THROUGH IT
NOW, PUT ALL OF YOUR POWER INTO EACH STRIKE.

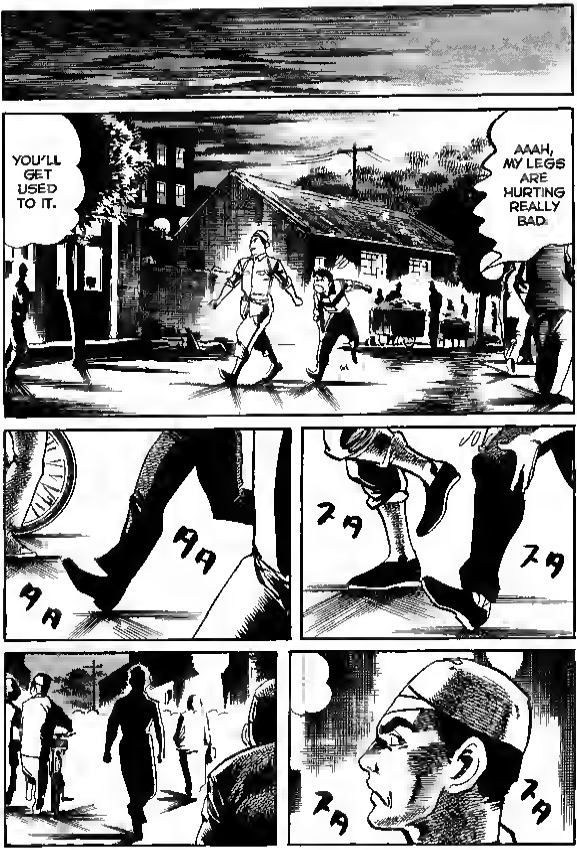
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF XINYILIU-HEQUAN?
HAH
HAH
HAH
HEY NOW, DON'T SAY SOMETHING RUDE LIKE THAT.
IT'S A VERY IMPOSING KUNGFU.
OF COURSE! THE EFFECTIVENESS OF XINYILIUHEQUAN IS SECOND TO NONE ON THIS EARTH.
OTHER SCHOOLS
XINYILIUHEQUAN
ATTACKING AFTER INFLUENCING OR DESTABILIZING THE OPPONENT
ATTACKING STRAIGHT FROM THE FRONT
WHEN FIGHTING WITH XINYILIUHEQUAN, WE SAY "THE FOOT INVADES (THE ENEMY'S) ZHONGJIAN (CENTER OF BALANCE) TO STEAL THEIR DIWEI (POSITION)," WHICH MEANS ATTACKING THE OPPONENT DIRECTLY FROM THE FRONT.

YES.
OF COURSE, DO YOU LIKE IT?
WOW, THAT'S A VERY MANLY WAY OF FIGHTING
LU-LAOSHI'S XINYILIUHE-QUAN
IS DESCENDED FROM A GREAT GENIUS NAMED MAI ZHUANGTU.
ONE DAY, MAI ZHUANGTU WAS VISITING THIS AREA TO TAKE CARE OF SOME BUSINESS, AND STOPPED BY A TEA HOUSE FOR A SHORT BREAK.
MAI ZHUANGTU WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO INTRODUCE XINYILIUHE-QUAN TO THIS REGION ABOUT 100 YEARS AGO.

WHEN YUAN HEARD "MAI ZHUANG-TU, THE FAMOUS MARTIAL ARTIST IS HERE,"
AT THE TIME, THERE WAS AN UNDE-FEATED SHAOLIN-QUAN EXPERT IN THIS REGION NAMED YUAN FENGYI.
HE CHAL-LENGED MAI ZHUANGTU TO A FIGHT.
ALRIGHT, COME AT ME THEN.

YAAAA
ダッ！
ゴッ

PLEASE TAKE ME AS YOUR STUDENT.
SINCE THEN, XINYILIU-HEQUAN HAS ROOTED IN THIS AREA.


YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
AAAH, MY LEGS ARE HURTING REALLY BAD.
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ｱﾀ
ｱﾀ
ｱﾀ
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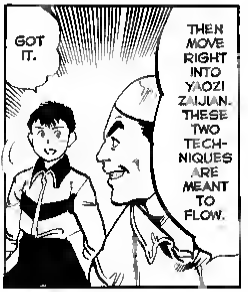
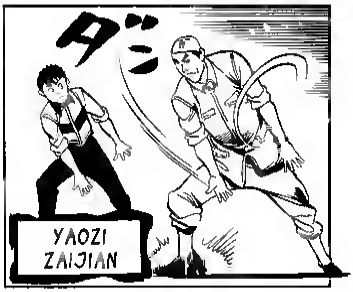
第4話
招待状
CHAPTER 4: INVITATION

THIS TECHNIQUE IS CALLED ZHAN CHUI AND IS QUITE USEFUL IN FIGHTS.

ZHAN CHUI


GOT IT.
THEN MOVE RIGHT INTO YAOZI ZAIJIAN. THESE TWO TECHNIQUES ARE MEANT TO FLOW.


ダン
YAOZI ZAIJIAN

HUH? THERE'S SOMEONE THERE
CATCH HIM!
DON'T BOTHER CHASING HIM.
I'VE BEEN GETTING THE FEELING LATELY THAT SOMEONE'S WATCHING ME

WOW, TIME FLIES. IT'S BEEN A WHOLE MONTH SINCE YOU ARRIVED HERE.
ゴト
ゴト
ガチャン!!
STOP !!
ダ
THAT'S THE GUY!

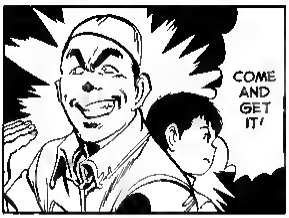
I'LL TRY CHASING THAT WAY.
DAMN IT, WE LOST HIM!
ザ!
EXCUSE ME, WAS THERE SOMEONE PASSING BY HERE?
!
タッ
タッ
タッタッタッ
XIE XIE (THANK YOU).
THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN RUNNING THAT WAY JUST NOW.

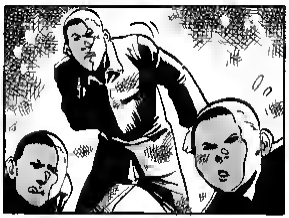
BREEEP
?
ス…
タタタ
!?
ダダダ!
バタ
バタ
バタバタ
ニヤ
ニヤ

YOU MUST BE GOH KENJI.
THAT'S RIGHT.
ARE YOU THE ONES WHO THREW THE ROCK THROUGH MA DAYUAN-SAN'S WINDOW?
AH, YOU GUYS MUST BE TONY TAN'S FRIENDS!!
WE'VE COME ALL THE WAY HERE FROM JAPAN, THAT'S WHY WE WANTED TO GREET YOU
LET'S GO, COME WITH US!!

TAKE THIS!!
ドゴーン
ドッゴーン
AH, MA DAYUN-SAN.
GET THEM !!
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO THREW THAT ROCK.
WHO ARE THEY!?
WHAAT!!

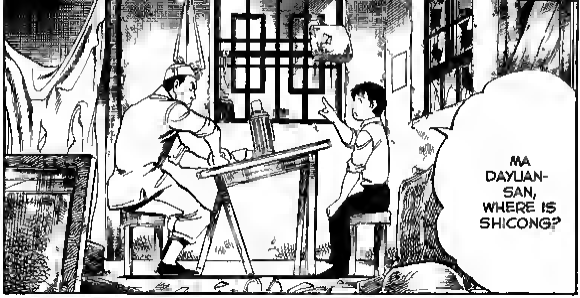
ああ!!
ダッ
ザザ
ザ..


COME AND GET IT!



RUN!
AH
WELL, THEY GAVE UP RATHER FAST.

DAMN, THEY TRICKED ME!!
KENJI, LOOK AT THAT!
WELCOME GOH KENJI
I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT SHICONG
TONY TAN


MA DAYUAN-SAN, WHERE IS SHICONG?

Damn

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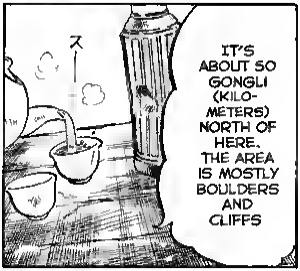
ｽｰ
IT'S ABOUT 50 GONGLI (KILO-METERS) NORTH OF HERE. THE AREA IS MOSTLY BOULDERS AND CLIFFS

I'LL TALK ABOUT THIS WITH LU-LAOSHI TOMORROW, AND MOVE YOU TO SOMEWHERE SAFE
KENJI, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T GO THERE ALONE! HE'LL KILL YOU AS SOON AS YOU GET THERE.
LEAVE THIS WHOLE TONY TAN BUSINESS TO ME!

I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE ANYONE ELSE ANYMORE.
I'M SORRY, MA DAYUAN-SAN I HAVE TO FINISH THIS MYSELF

MA DAYUAN-SAN MUST BE UP BY NOW. I HAVE TO HURRY.

THANK YOU, SIR.
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE. YOU'LL DIE IF YOU FALL OFF THE CLIFF.

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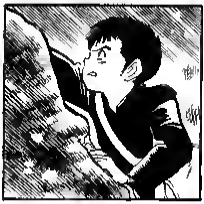
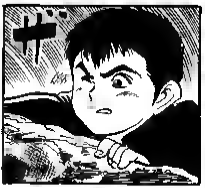
WHOA, AMAZ-ING!
WHERE IS TONY TAN?

CHAPTER 5: REUNION
第5話
再会

HE'S CALLING ME OVER.

THERE'S SOMEONE THERE...





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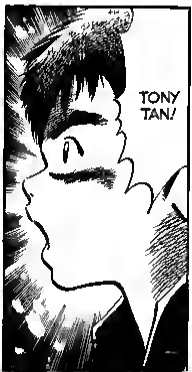
I OIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME, GOH KENJI!!


TONY TAN!

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ヒュオオオ
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, KENJI...

IT'S TIME TO SETTLE THE MATTER BETWEEN US!
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT.
!!
MY COMRADES HAVE THE PLACE SURROUNDED. YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.
LET'S GO!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T IMPROVED MUCH
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YAH
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Kuh!
WHAT A POSER.
HERE!
OUTTA STAMINA AL READY?
WHATSA MATTER ?
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LEGGO YA JACKASS

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HAHA
ALRIGHT, LET'S END THIS!

SO, WHADDAYA THINK OF THIS!!
第6話
決着
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION

OW.
CRAP, I THINK HE CRACKED A RIB THERE.
HEHEHE, I WON'T KILL YOU THAT EASILY.

THESE PAST THREE YEARS, KILLING YOU'S THE ONLY THING I COULD THINK ABOUT.
GET UP! I'M GONNA BEAT YOU TO DEATH
TASTE THE FULL FORCE OF XINYILIUHE-QUAN'S SHIDA XING
HERE, THE MAXINGQUAN (HORSE FORM'S FIST)!

NEXT, SHEXING-QUAN (SNAKE FORM'S FIST)!
RIGHT, SHEJI CONGREN I SHOULD USE HUAJIN HERE

GOD DAMN FAKER!
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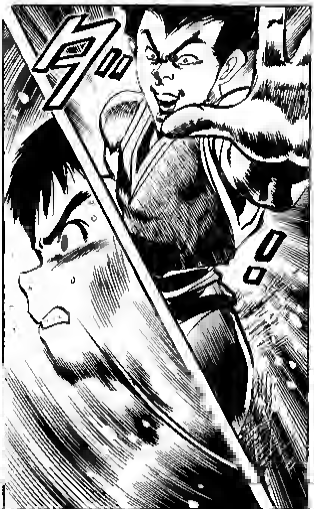
YOUR HUAJIN (ABILITY TO REDIRECT AN OPPONENT'S POWER) IS STILL PRETTY PATHETIC.
LOOKS LIKE I DIDN'T FOLLOW THROUGH THERE.

I'M JUST GONNA FINISH THIS NOW.

IT'S NO USE!
EVERYTHING I'VE DONE HAS BEEN USELESS!!

THAT'S IT. I NEED TO GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING.

SAY YOUR PRAYERS.



I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE BAJIQUAN THAT I'VE TRAINED MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE!!

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THERE'S NOTHING TO GAIN FROM US FIGHTING. LET'S JUST END IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT, I UNDERSTAND.
THANK YOU.

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!?
THAT WAS PRETTY CLOSE THERE.
I JUMPED BACK TO REDUCE THE DAMAGE FROM YOUR KICK.

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WHOA!

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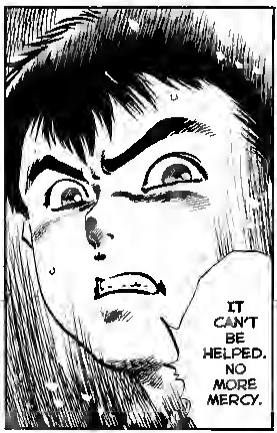
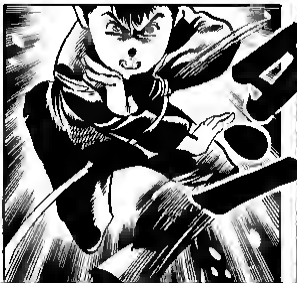
TONY, ARE YOU EVEN STILL A MARTIAL ARTIST!?


IT CAN'T BE HELPED. NO MORE MERCY.

EAT THIS!

SHUT UP! THE ONLY THING I CARE ABOUT IS KILLING YOU!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COME HERE!

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AH!

CHAPTER 7: WAY

I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER MY TIESHA-ZHANG (IRON SAND PALM).
YOU'LL BE DEAD WITHIN A WEEK.
AH, I'M STARTING TO LOSE CONSCIOUS-NESS
SHIT! AM I GOING TO DIE HERE!?
I'LL JUST LEAVE YOU HERE. NOBODY'S GOING TO HELP YOU AT A PLACE THIS SECLUDED.
ENJOY YOUR SUFFER-ING!
KENJI, KEEP IT TOGETHER!

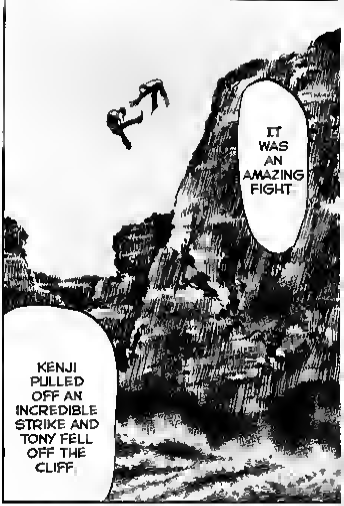
GRAND-PA, WHY ARE YOU HERE?
HAVEN'T YOU GONE BACK TO JAPAN?
I DECIDED NOT TO GO. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
IT'S THE END FOR ME. I WAS HIT BY A TIESHA-ZHANG.
DON'T SAY THAT. KEEP YOURSELF TO-GETHER!
HAH!

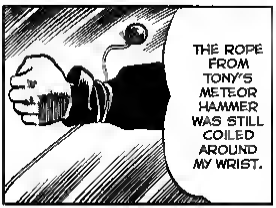
YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO. THANK GOD!
...
WHERE IS GRAND-PA?
WHAT ARE YOU TALK-ING ABOUT?
YOU MUST'VE BEEN DREAM-ING
BUT WHY IS DAOJIE HERE?
I'M NOT DAOJIE ANYMORE I'VE DECIDED TO *HUANSU
HOW COME?
MY FATHER HAS BEEN AVENGED, SO ZHUCHI-SAMA TOLD ME "YOU'RE HER ONLY SON, SO YOU SHOULD STAY BY YOUR MOTHER'S SIDE."
BUT BEFORE GOING BACK TO THE VILLAGE, I DECIDED TO LOOK FOR GEGE HERE

*A/N QUIT BEING A MONK AND RETURN TO THE PUBLIC

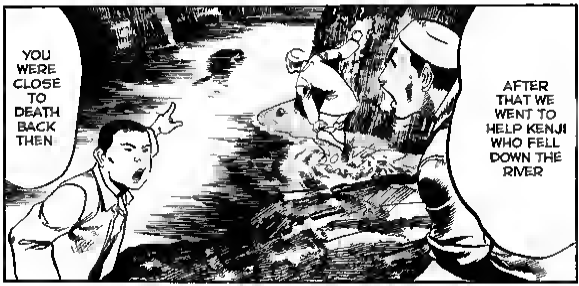
WAIT A SECOND! I WAS FIGHTING TONY TAN AND WE FELL INTO THE RIVER!!
IS THAT SO...
I ONLY REMEMBER THAT FAR. HOW DID I GET HERE?
THAT DAY, I DIDN'T FIND YOU IN YOUR BED WHEN I WOKE UP.
I FIGURED YOU HAD GONE TO SHICONG ALONE, SO I GRABBED SOME FRIENDS AND WENT AFTER YOU.
WHEN WE REACHED SHICONG,
YOU WERE FIGHTING FOR YOUR LIFE AGAINST TONY TAN.
UM, YOU JUST SAID "THAT DAY"...
HA HA HA HA HA
YOU WERE PRETTY MUCH OUT COLD FOR ABOUT TWO DAYS.
HUUUUH

BUT WHY DID YOU FALL AS WELL?

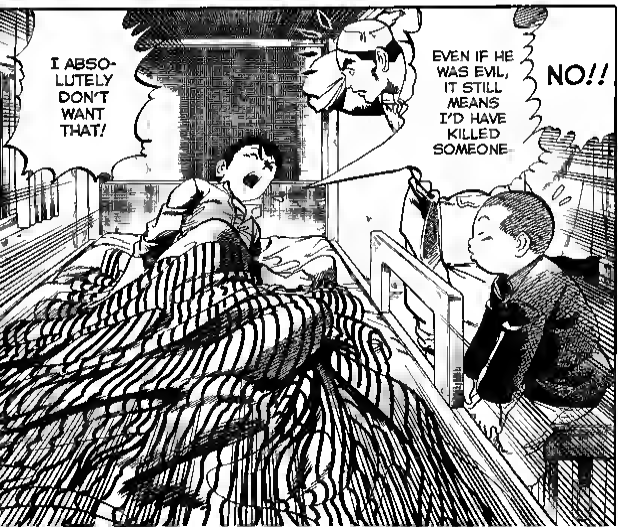

IT WAS AN AMAZING FIGHT
KENJI PULLED OFF AN INCREDIBLE STRIKE AND TONY FELL OFF THE CLIFF

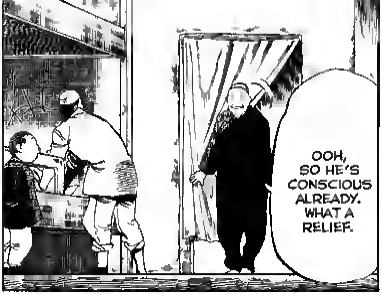

THE ROPE FROM TONY'S METEOR HAMMER WAS STILL COILED AROUND MY WRIST.

I SEE. WE COULDN'T TELL FROM THAT FAR AWAY

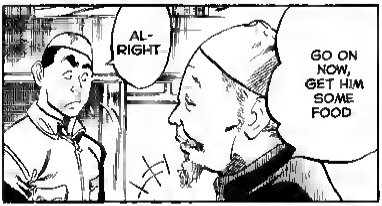

YOU WERE CLOSE TO DEATH BACK THEN
AFTER THAT WE WENT TO HELP KENJI WHO FELL DOWN THE RIVER

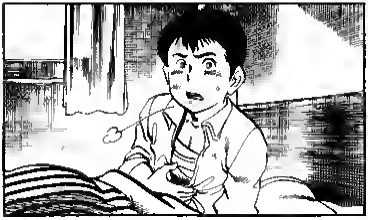
WE LOOKED EVERY-WHERE BUT COULDN'T FIND HIM.
THEN WHAT HAP-PENED TO TONY?
BUT A BAD GUY LIKE HIM IS BETTER OFF DEAD.
NO IDEA.
DON'T TELL ME, COULD HE HAVE ACTU-ALLY DIED!?


I ABSO-LUTELY DON'T WANT THAT!
EVEN IF HE WAS EVIL, IT STILL MEANS I'D HAVE KILLED SOMEONE
NO!!


OOH, SO HE'S CONSCIOUS ALREADY. WHAT A RELIEF.

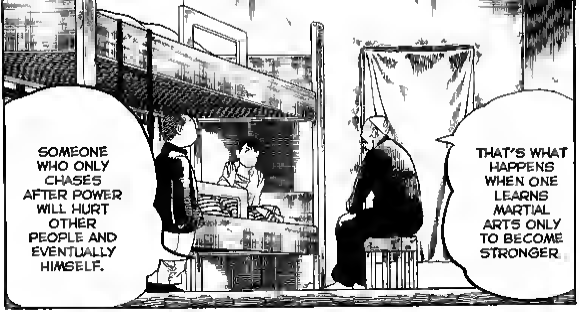
HE WON'T DIE JUST LIKE THAT.
COME ON, CALM DOWN.

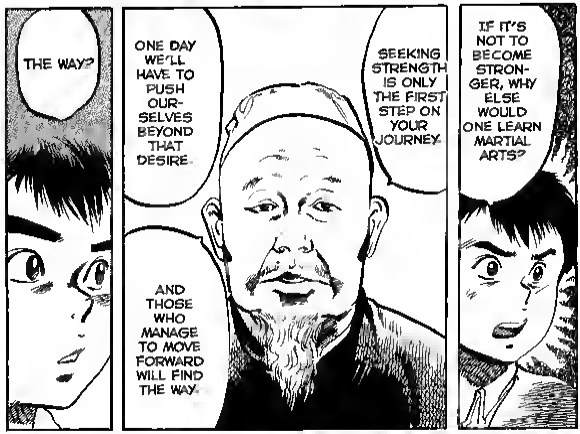

AL-RIGHT
GO ON NOW, GET HIM SOME FOOD

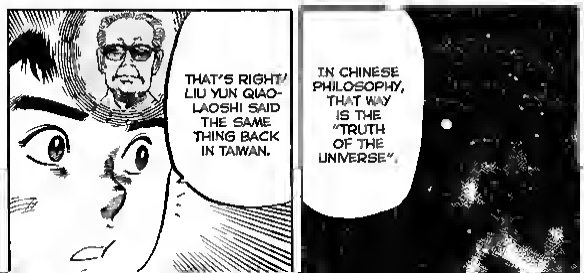


I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED TO TONY

YOU SEEM UNEASY

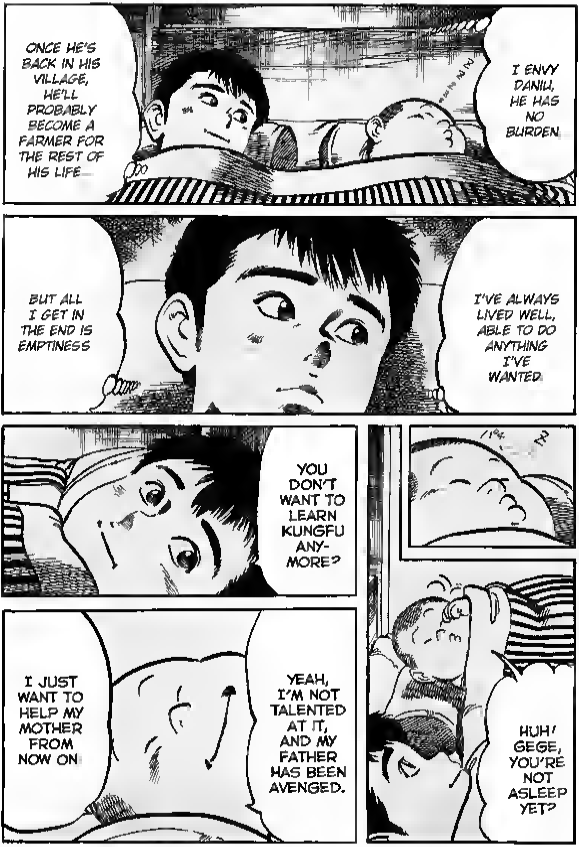

SOMEONE WHO ONLY CHASES AFTER POWER WILL HURT OTHER PEOPLE AND EVENTUALLY HIMSELF.
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE LEARNS MARTIAL ARTS ONLY TO BECOME STRONGER.

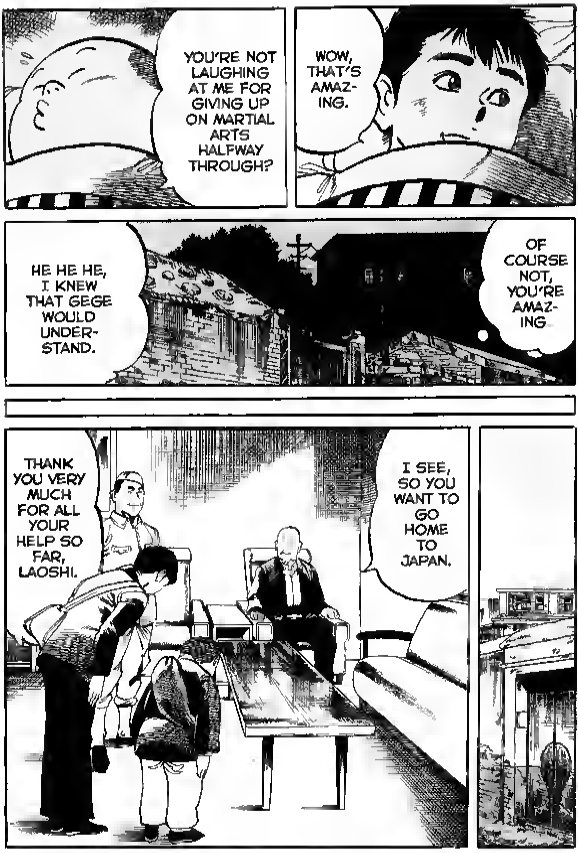

THE WAY?
ONE DAY WE'LL HAVE TO PUSH OUR-SELVES BEYOND THAT DESIRE.
AND THOSE WHO MANAGE TO MOVE FORWARD WILL FIND THE WAY.
SEEKING STRENGTH IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP ON YOUR JOURNEY.
IF IT'S NOT TO BECOME STRON-GER, WHY ELSE WOULD ONE LEARN MARTIAL ARTS?


THAT'S RIGHT! LIU YUN QIAO-LAOSHI SAID THE SAME THING BACK IN TAIWAN.
IN CHINESE PHILOSOPHY, THAT WAY IS THE "TRUTH OF THE UNIVERSE".

THEREFORE, TRAINING IN MARTIAL ARTS ALLOWS US TO GRASP AN UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE LAWS THROUGH OUR OWN BODIES.
THE SOPHISTICATED MARTIAL ARTS OF CHINA EXPRESS THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE IN THEIR ACTIONS.
AND FINALLY, HOLDING TO A HIGHER SENSE OF PURPOSE IN OUR LIVES.
IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT WE CHOOSE TO TRAIN A PARTICULAR MARTIAL ART, BY STUDYING UNDER A PARTICULAR LAOSHI.

YOU'VE GAINED A LOT OF EXPERIENCE WHILE IN CHINA.
I'M NOT SURPRISED.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT BACK THEN, BUT I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET IT NOW
...
HERE YOU GO, THE PORRIDGE IS READY.
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO TONY COULD HE REALLY BE DEAD?
WHAT IS THIS, WHY DO I FEEL SO EMPTY?


ONCE HE'S BACK IN HIS VILLAGE, HE'LL PROBABLY BECOME A FARMER FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE...
I ENVY DANIU, HE HAS NO BURDEN.
BUT ALL I GET IN THE END IS EMPTINESS
I'VE ALWAYS LIVED WELL, ABLE TO DO ANYTHING I'VE WANTED.
YOU DON'T WANT TO LEARN KUNGFU ANY-MORE?
I JUST WANT TO HELP MY MOTHER FROM NOW ON.
YEAH, I'M NOT TALENTED AT IT, AND MY FATHER HAS BEEN AVENGED.
HUH! GEGE, YOU'RE NOT ASLEEP YET?


YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING AT ME FOR GIVING UP ON MARTIAL ARTS HALFWAY THROUGH?
WOW, THAT'S AMAZ-ING.
HE HE HE, I KNEW THAT GEGE WOULD UNDER-STAND.
OF COURSE NOT, YOU'RE AMAZ-ING.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP SO FAR, LAOSHI.
I SEE, SO YOU WANT TO GO HOME TO JAPAN.

BESIDES, I WANT TO STOP BY CANGZHOU AND GIVE MY THANKS TO EVERY-ONE WHO HELPED ME.
THAT'S NOT NECES-SARY, I CAN GO ON MY OWN
I'M TOO OLD TO GO, BUT I'LL HAVE MA DAYUAN TAKE YOU TO ZHENG-ZHOU
BEIJING
北京
TIANJIN
天津
ZHENGZHOU
鄭州
SHANGHAI
上海
ONCE IN SHANGHAI, YOU HAVE TO GO TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AND TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED. FROM THERE YOU'LL GO STRAIGHT HOME TO JAPAN
DON'T. YOUR VISA HAS EXPIRED
IT'LL BE TROUBLE IF YOU GET CAUGHT. THAT'S WHY I'LL HAVE MA DAYUAN GO WITH YOU.
DAYUAN, STOP TALKING NONSENSE.
WHAT ABOUT HIS PARENTS?
KENJI, YOU SHOULD JUST HIDE OUT AT MY PLACE. WE'LL TRAIN XINYILIUHE-QUAN TOGETHER.

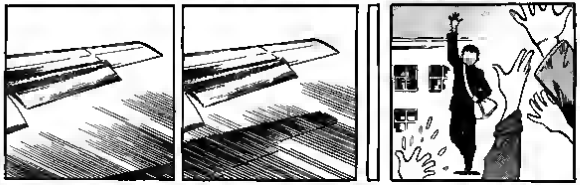
MY GRAND-FATHER ONCE SAID THAT KUNGFU IS NOT FOR FIGHTING PEOPLE, BUT MAKING FRIENDS INSTEAD.
IS THIS ALSO A PART OF THE WAY?
LU-LAOSHI, MAY I ASK SOME-THING?
WHAT IS IT?
OF COURSE IT IS THAT IS, ITSELF, THE WAY.
ZHENGZHOU

SUIT YOURSELF, THEN.
UM, MA DAYUAN-SAN, I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED ME HERE IN ZHENGZHOU.
WE'VE STILL GOT A WHILE.
SIR, DID YOU JUST SAY "KENJI"?
BUT HE'S TAKING FOREVER. MAYBE HE RAN AWAY!
THAT KENJI, TELLING US TO WAIT HERE,

BEI BEI, COME OUT! KENJI IS RIGHT HERE IN ZHENG-ZHOU.
REALLY !?
BY ANY CHANCE, DID YOU MEAN KENJI, THE JAPANESE BOY?
THAT'S RIGHT.
タ...
SIR, DRINK AS MUCH AS YOU WANT. IT'S ON THE HOUSE.
I'M SORRY IT TOOK ME A WHILE, JIN-LAO HELD ME UP.

GEGE, PLEASE COME BACK HERE AGAIN.
PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS TO CHAI JINJUN-SAN, ZHU YONGDE-SAN, AND DING QINGZHEN-LAOSHI.

LOOK AT HOW RELAXED THIS KID IS, AFTER GETTING PEOPLE WORRIED AND ALL.
HUH? EVERYONE'S HERE ALREADY? WHAT'S GOING ON?



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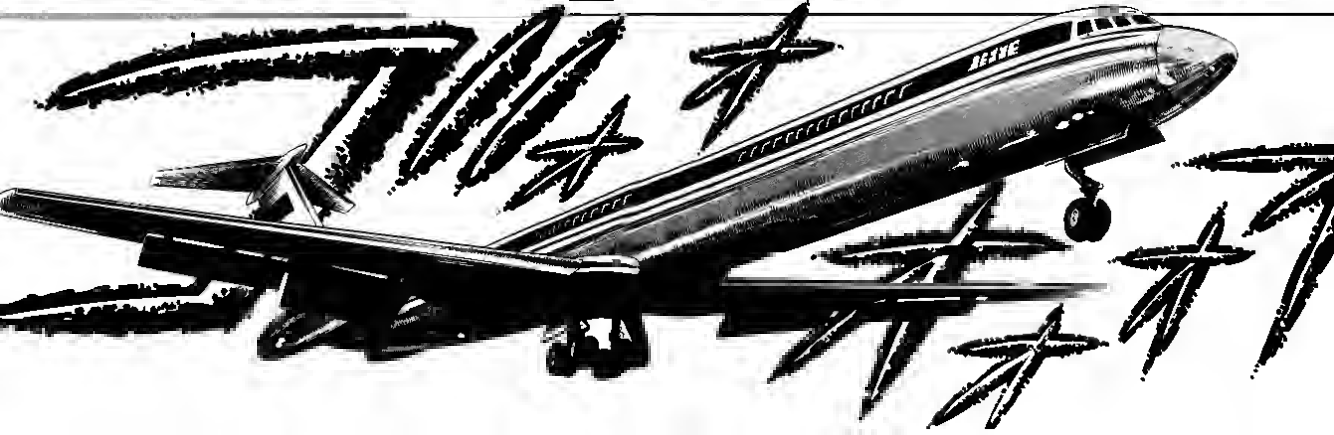
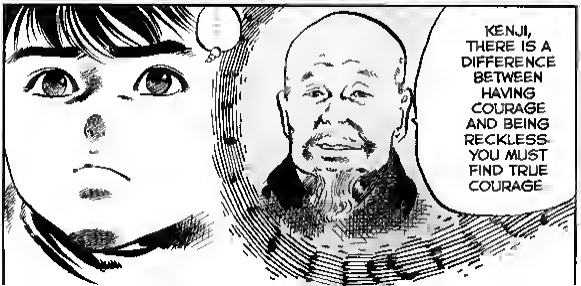


第8話 CHAPTER 8:

真の勇気 TRUE COURAGE

A HUMAN FIGHTING ANOTHER HUMAN, WHAT A WASTE.
IS TONY SAFE, I WONDER?
IT'S GREAT THAT I WON AND ALL, BUT WHAT AM I LEFT WITH? I FEEL SO EMPTY NOW. WOULD MY LIFE HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF WITHOUT MARTIAL ARTS?
WHEN I WAS FIGHTING, A SINGLE MISTAKE COULD HAVE KILLED ME.


KENJI, THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING COURAGE AND BEING RECKLESS. YOU MUST FIND TRUE COURAGE

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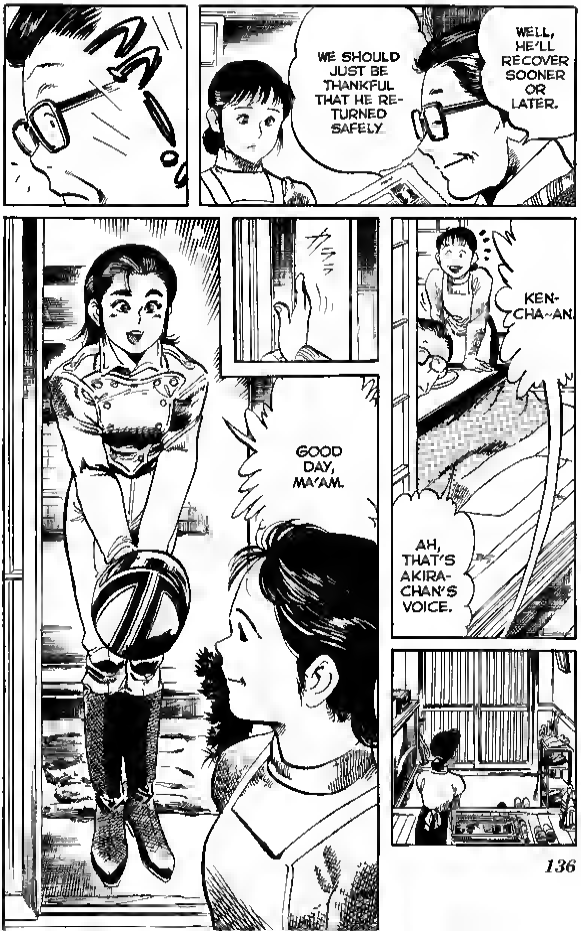
ブロロロロ
ブロロロロ

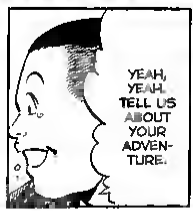

WELL, HE'LL RECOVER SOONER OR LATER.
WE SHOULD JUST BE THANKFUL THAT HE RETURNED SAFELY.
KEN-CHA~AN.
AH, THAT'S AKIRA-CHAN'S VOICE.
GOOD DAY, MA'AM.

AL-RIGHT, I'M GONNA GO WAKE HIM UP THEN!
WHO KNOWS? I CAN'T TELL IF HE'S UP YET OR NOT...
IS KEN-CHAN STILL SLEEPING?
?
THAT'S IT.
ズドォ!
RISE AND SHIINE
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!
DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT THAT INOUE-SAN, TAICHI-KUN, AND EVERYONE ELSE ARE THROWING YOU A WELCOME-HOME PARTY AT ZHANG RENZHONG-SENSEI'S RESTAURANT IN YOKOHAMA!
SOR-RY.
I DON'T REALLY FEEL UP TO DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.
SO, WHAT'S GOING ON TODAY?
HOW CAN YOU ACT LIKE THAT? EVERY-ONE'S BEEN SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU. IT'S AWFUL.
IF YOUR MOTHER HADN'T CALLED, I WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN KNOWN THAT YOU'D RETURNED TO JAPAN.

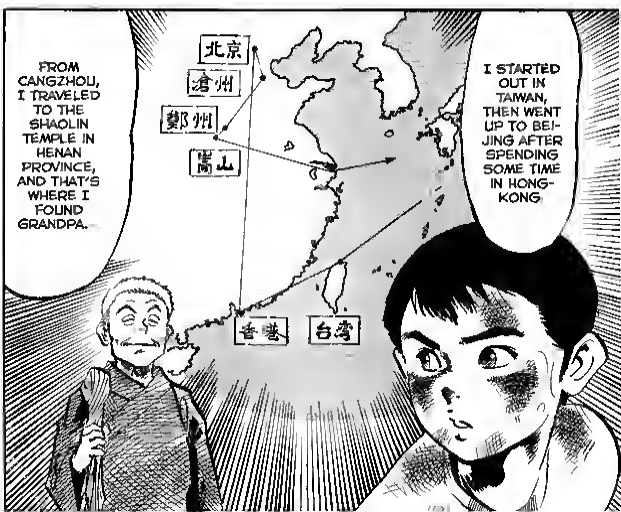
HUH, WAS THAT TODAY?
I EVEN REMINDED YOU ABOUT IT ON THE PHONE
THEN, I GUESS IT WOULD BE BAD IF I DIDN'T GO, HUH?
ドドド

GOOD DAY.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE ...

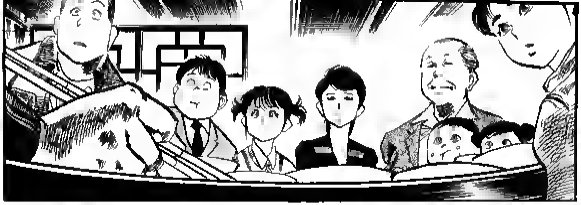
WELL,

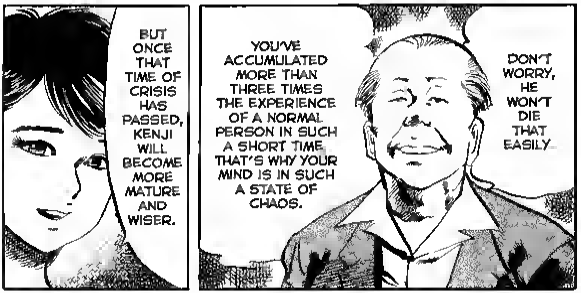

YEAH, YEAH. TELL US ABOUT YOUR ADVEN-TURE.

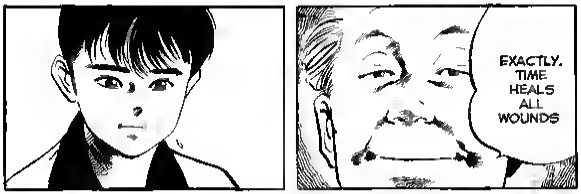
KEN-CHAN, TELL US ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU DID IN CHINA.


北京
滄州
鄭州
嵩山
香港
台湾
FROM CANGZHOU, I TRAVELED TO THE SHAOLIN TEMPLE IN HENAN PROVINCE, AND THAT'S WHERE I FOUND GRANDPA.
I STARTED OUT IN TAIWAN, THEN WENT UP TO BEI-JING AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME IN HONG-KONG.

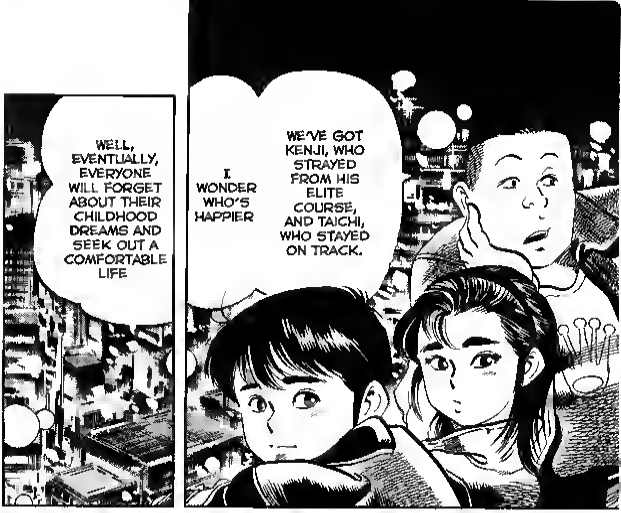
HUH!? TONY TAN WAS IN CHINA!?
I DELAYED MY TRIP HOME TO FIGHT TONY TAN.
THEN YOU WENT HOME WITH YOUR GRAND-PA?
BUT I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO TONY..
IT WAS ALL IN SELF-DEFENSE, WASN'T IT? HE WAS REALLY TRYING TO KILL YOU.
BUT.. IF TONY DIED, I DON'T THINK I'D EVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF.
THEN I FOUGHT AGAINST TONY
AWESOME! THAT'S JUST LIKE IN MOVIES!!




DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T DIE THAT EASILY.
YOU'VE ACCUMULATED MORE THAN THREE TIMES THE EXPERIENCE OF A NORMAL PERSON IN SUCH A SHORT TIME. THAT'S WHY YOUR MIND IS IN SUCH A STATE OF CHAOS.
BUT ONCE THAT TIME OF CRISIS HAS PASSED, KENJI WILL BECOME MORE MATURE AND WISER.

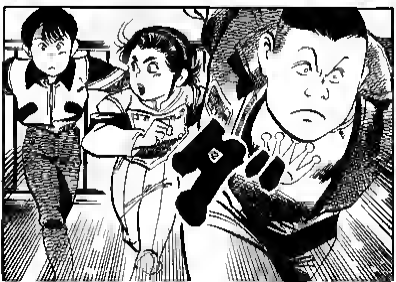

EXACTLY. TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS

KEN-CHAN, DID YOU TRAIN LOTS OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF KUNGFU IN CHINA?
YEAH. DO YOU STILL TRAIN XINYIQUAN, TAICHI-CHAN?
I'M STUDY-ING, SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO TRAIN
THAT'S AWESOME THOUGH. GETTING SO STRONG LIKE THAT. I'M STILL JUST A COWARD, CONSTANTLY IN FEAR EVERYDAY.
IN FEAR OF WHAT?
WELL, FEAR OF SCHOOL, FEAR OF BULLYING BY THUGS
TAICHI-KUN, THERE'S A HUGE SHIP OVER THERE LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT.


WELL, EVENTUALLY, EVERYONE WILL FORGET ABOUT THEIR CHILDHOOD DREAMS AND SEEK OUT A COMFORTABLE LIFE
I WONDER WHO'S HAPPIER
WE'VE GOT KENJI, WHO STRAYED FROM HIS ELITE COURSE, AND TAICHI, WHO STAYED ON TRACK.

TAICHI-KUN'S IN TROUBLE !!

KEN-CHAN, COME QUICK !!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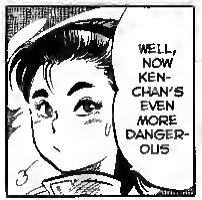
HOLD IT!
TAICHI-CHAN, WHAT'S THE MATTER!?
WHO'RE ALLA YA? YOU WITH THIS FUCKING KID!?
AH, IT'S YOU!?

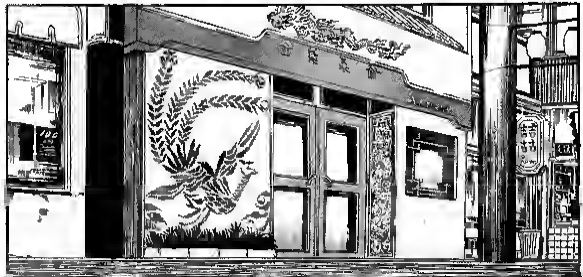
HOI.

NOW I REMEMBER! THOSE GUYS WERE UNDER TONY TAN.

AMAZING! ONE LOOK AT KEN-CHAN'S FACE AND THEY RAN AWAY!


WELL, NOW KEN-CHAN'S EVEN MORE DANGER-OUS

THEY MUST STILL REMEM-BER KENJI.



WHAT ON EARTH HAP-PENED?
WHAT'RE YA DOIN, STROLLIN AROUND WITH THIS FUCKING FATTY.
WHILE WE WERE LOOKING AT SHIPS...
YOU SHOULD SPEND SOME TIME WITH US INSTEAD.
LET ME GO
COME ON, LET'S GO!

STOP IT!!
BAS-TARD!
BRAT, STAY OUT OF OUR WAY!!

THIS KID THINKS HE'S HOT SHIT! KICK HIS ASS!!
GUH
TAICHI, THAT WAS PRETTY BRAVE OF YOU.
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP MISUZU-CHAN
YEAH, YOU'RE NOT A COWARD AT ALL.

MY LAOSHI USED TO SAY, "WITH COMPASSION COMES COURAGE." IN OTHER WORDS, TRUE COURAGE IS BORN OF LOVE.
THOSE THUGS AREN'T COURAGEOUS, THAT'S WHY THEY ONLY BOTHER PEOPLE WEAKER THAN THEM.
THAT'S WHAT TRUE COURAGE IS
I THINK I'VE GOT A BIT OF MY OLD SPIRIT BACK.
DAMN
DIDN'T YOU USED TO BE THE HEAD OF A BIKER GANG?
THOSE THUGS AREN'T COURAGEOUS. THAT'S WHY THEY ONLY TRIED TO PICK A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE WHO LOOKED WEAKER THAN THEM.
NOW THERE'S JUST THAT ONE LEFT.

CHAPTER 9: NEW GOAL
第9話
新たな目標

OOOOH, WELCOME BACK!
FATHER!
MY DAUGHTER WAS WORRYING ABOUT YOU EVERY DAY.
SO YOU'VE NOTICED. I'VE ACTUALLY DISBANDED MY GROUP.
IN THIS ERA, OUR OUTDATED WAYS OF THINKING JUST DON'T APPLY ANYMORE.
SOMETHING SEEMS DIFFERENT AROUND HERE.

I'VE ALREADY CONTACTED HIM. HE'LL PROBABLY BE HERE SOON
KOKUBU HAS ACTUALLY MOVED ON AND IS NOW A CARPENTER.
THEN, WHAT ABOUT KOKUBU-SAN?
OOOH, KEN-CHAN, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN-
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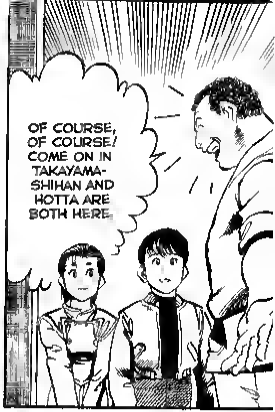
ドタドタ
YEAH, THAT'S 'CAUSE I DON'T HAVE COURAGE.
KOKUBU-SAN, SO YOU'VE REALLY BECOME A CARPENTER
HAHAAA.
SURVIVING AGAINST ADVERSITY AND WORKING FOR SOMEONE ELSE IS ALSO COURAGEOUS.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. IT'S YOUR COURAGE THAT BROUGHT YOU WHERE YOU ARE.

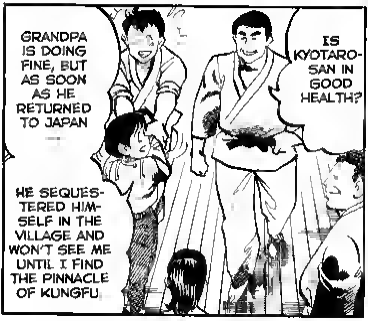
KEN-CHAN, ARE YOU FEELING A BIT MORE ENERGETIC NOW?
YEAH.
C'MON NOW. YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE A MAN.
HAVE YOU VISITED THOSE WHO HELPED YOU BEFORE YOU LEFT TO CHINA?
NOT YET
THAT'S NOT VERY POLITE!
I GUESS SO
AAH, YOU SUCK
ALRIGHT, LEMME TAKE YOU THERE RIGHT NOW ON MY BIKE.
LET'S GO, HURRY!
WE'RE GOING TO TAKAYAMA-SENSEI'S DOJO RIGHT NOW.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE STILL TRAINING.
IF YOU'RE THAT WEAK-LOOKING, YOU'LL GET LAUGHED AT BY TAKAYAMA-SENSEI.
GOOD AFTER-NOON!
I GUESS SO.
MAN! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!
OH, IF I'M NOT MIS-TAKEN.. YOU ARE--
GOH KENJI.

SHIHAN, WE HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST.


OF COURSE, OF COURSE! COME ON IN TAKAYAMA-SHIHAN AND HOTTA ARE BOTH HERE.

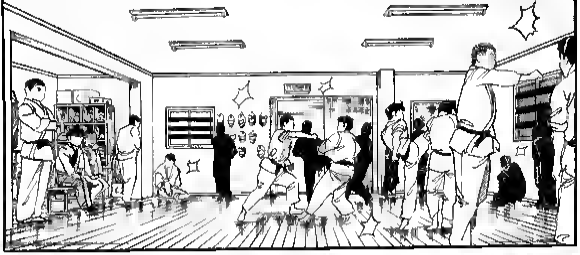
OOOH, IF IT ISN'T GOH-KUN.

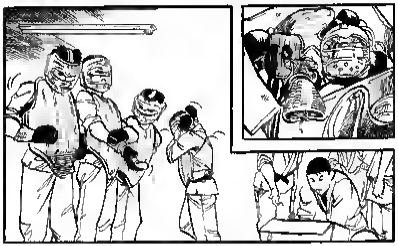

GRANDPA IS DOING FINE, BUT AS SOON AS HE RETURNED TO JAPAN
HE SEQUESTERED HIMSELF IN THE VILLAGE AND WON'T SEE ME UNTIL I FIND THE PINNACLE OF KUNGFU.
IS KYOTARO-SAN IN GOOD HEALTH?

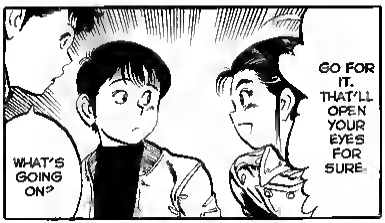
OOOH, KEN-CHAN, WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?

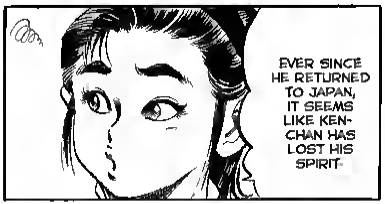
OF COURSE, TRAINING IS OVER IN AN HOUR, WE'LL CHAT AFTER THAT.
UM, WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT IF I OBSERVE A BIT?

THAT SOUNDS JUST LIKE KYOTARO-SAN




STOP!
WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME ARMORED SPARRING NOW, SO SUIT UP.


WHAT'S GOING ON?
GO FOR IT. THAT'LL OPEN YOUR EYES FOR SURE.


EVER SINCE HE RETURNED TO JAPAN, IT SEEMS LIKE KEN-CHAN HAS LOST HIS SPIRIT.

KEN-CHAN, DIDN'T YOU LEARN A LOT IN CHINA? TEACH ME SOME.
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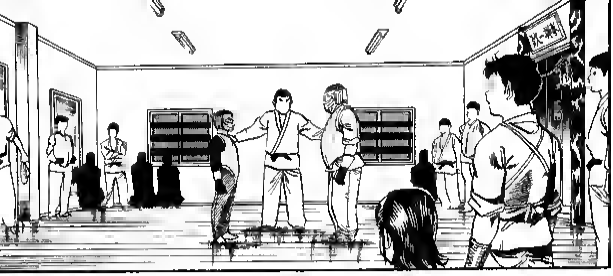
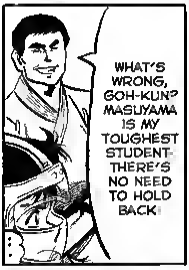
WELL...

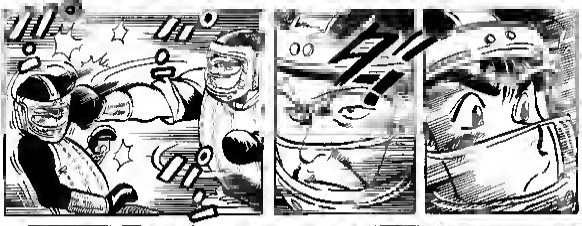
SEEMS LIKE THERE'S A GOOD REASON FOR THAT.
IF WE PUSH IT, YOU MIGHT GET INJURED. IT'S BETTER NOT TO
SIR, PLEASE LET ME DO IT.
NOW WE'RE TALK-ING
WAIT, LET'S HAVE MA-SUYAMA SPAR AGAINST GOH-KUN INSTEAD.



BEGIN!


WHAT'S WRONG, GOH-KUN? MASUYAMA IS MY TOUGHEST STUDENT. THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD BACK!

LET'S GO, GIVE IT YOUR ALL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WHAT'S WRONG? STAND BACK UP.
ﾀﾞﾀﾞﾀﾞﾀﾞ...
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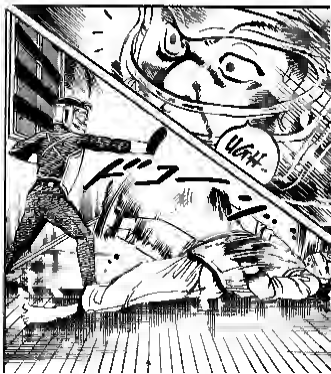
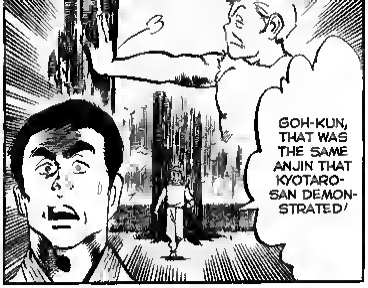
ｲﾄﾞ!
IF YOU DON'T TAKE THIS MORE SERIOUSLY, I'LL STOP THE MATCH.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN FIGHTING BACK. THAT'S WORSE THAN INSULTING YOUR OPPONENT.
I UNDERSTAND.
STOP!
GOH-KUN, IF YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, WE'D BETTER STOP HERE.
NO, LET ME GO ON.

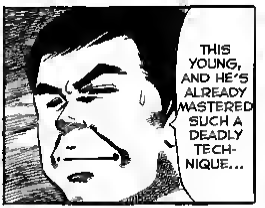
NOW, BEGIN!

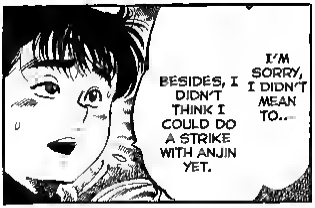
AL-RIGHT, HERE I GO!
MASU-YAMA, ATTACK HIM MORE SERI-OUSLY!
IT LOOKS LIKE HIS EYES ARE START-ING TO OPEN.
!
HARRR
K.

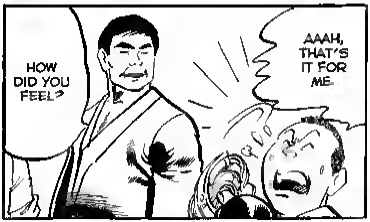
!


UGH!

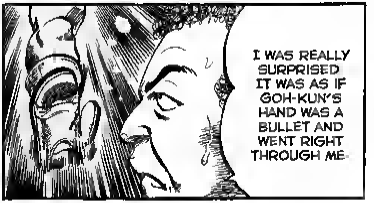

GOH-KUN, THAT WAS THE SAME ANJIN THAT KYOTARO-SAN DEMON-STRATED!

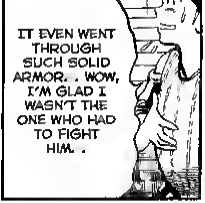

THIS YOUNG, AND HE'S ALREADY MASTERED SUCH A DEADLY TECH-NIQUE...


I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T MEAN TO..
BESIDES, I DIDN'T THINK I COULD DO A STRIKE WITH ANJIN YET.

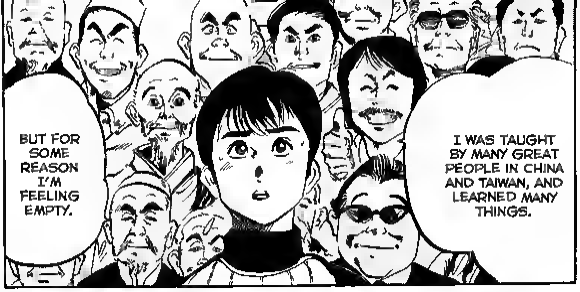

HOW DID YOU FEEL?
AAAH, THAT'S IT FOR ME.

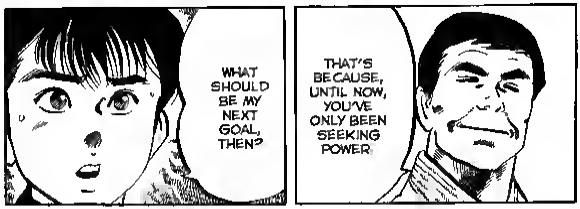
COUGH!
COUGH!


I WAS REALLY SURPRISED IT WAS AS IF GOH-KUN'S HAND WAS A BULLET AND WENT RIGHT THROUGH ME.


IT EVEN WENT THROUGH SUCH SOLID ARMOR. . WOW, I'M GLAD I WASN'T THE ONE WHO HAD TO FIGHT HIM. .

BUT I ONLY MOVED MY HAND FORWARD
IT WOULD SEEM YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND THE PINNACLE.
THAT'S ANJIN FROM CHINESE KUNGFU.
AT THAT POINT, YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO DO ANYTHING FANCY. JUST MAKING CONTACT WILL BE ENOUGH.
THE HIGHER-LEVEL THE TECHNIQUE, THE LESS AWARE OF IT YOU'LL BE
REAL TRAINING IS NOT ABOUT MEMORIZING LOTS OF DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES, BUT ABOUT LEARNING TO SEE THE MEANING BEHIND THEM. DISCARD THE TECHNIQUES, AND YOU'LL DISCOVER THE "MOST IMPORTANT ONE".
GOH-KUN, YOU'VE ALREADY FOUND IT FOR YOURSELF.
THAT'S WHY MARTIAL ARTISTS IN THE PAST WERE ABLE TO BRING DOWN THEIR OPPONENTS WITH JUST ONE STRIKE.

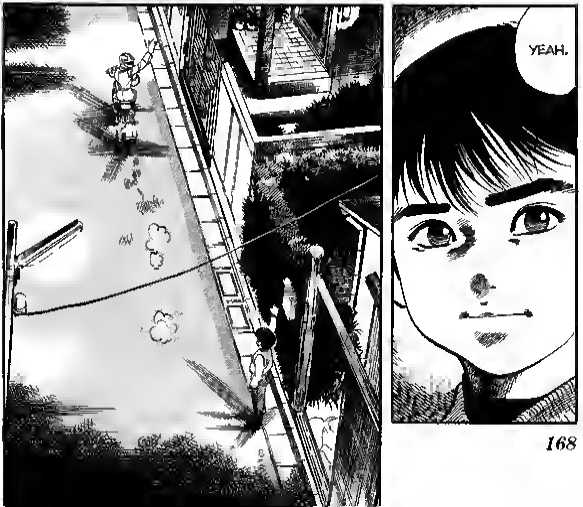

I WAS TAUGHT BY MANY GREAT PEOPLE IN CHINA AND TAIWAN, AND LEARNED MANY THINGS.
BUT FOR SOME REASON I'M FEELING EMPTY.


THAT'S BECAUSE, UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE ONLY BEEN SEEKING POWER.
WHAT SHOULD BE MY NEXT GOAL, THEN?

DETACH YOURSELF FROM HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS, AND BECOME ONE WITH NATURE.
I CAN'T DO THAT.
SURE YOU CAN A TRUE MARTIAL ART EXPRESSES THE LAW OF NATURE THROUGH ITS MOVES.
THAT'S WHY IF YOU HAVE A STRONG GOAL OR ASPIRATION, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO UNDER-STAND IT,
AND EVENTU-ALLY BECOME ONE WITH NATURE.

I'M GLAD. YOU'RE STARTING TO LOOK LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN.
THANK YOU, AKIRA-CHAN

I HOPE YOU'LL GET TO SEE YOUR GRANDPA AGAIN SOON.
THANKS TO YOU, AKIRA-CHAN.


YEAH.

第10話
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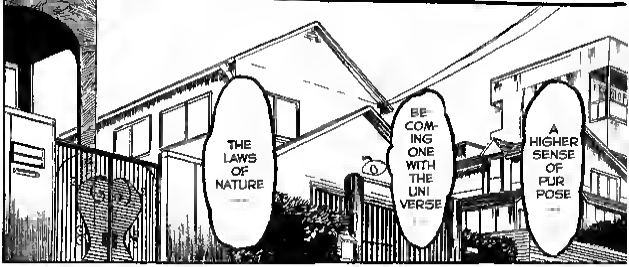
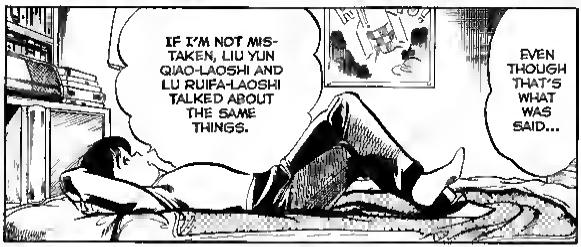
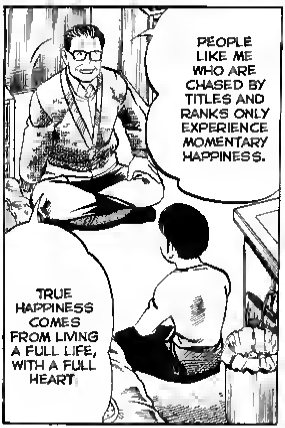
CHAPTER 10: A GREAT LOVE

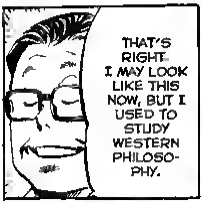

THE LAWS OF NATURE
BECOMING ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE
A HIGHER SENSE OF PURPOSE

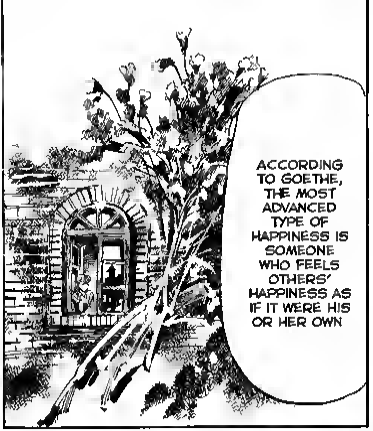

IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, LIU YUN QIAO-LAOSHI AND LU RUIFA-LAOSHI TALKED ABOUT THE SAME THINGS.
EVEN THOUGH THAT'S WHAT WAS SAID...

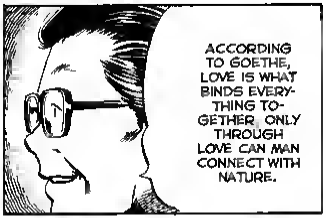

PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO ARE CHASED BY TITLES AND RANKS ONLY EXPERIENCE MOMENTARY HAPPINESS.
TRUE HAPPINESS COMES FROM LIVING A FULL LIFE, WITH A FULL HEART

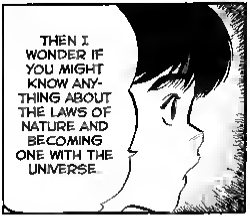
KENJI, ARE YOU AWAKE?
WHILE YOU WERE GONE, I SPOKE WITH YOUR MOTHER ABOUT WHAT HAPPINESS REALLY IS, AND WHAT LIVING WELL REALLY MEANS.

GOETHE, AS IN THE POET?

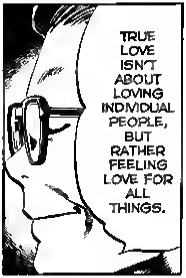

THAT'S RIGHT. I MAY LOOK LIKE THIS NOW, BUT I USED TO STUDY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY.

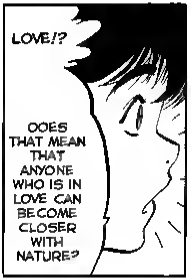

ACCORDING TO GOETHE, THE MOST ADVANCED TYPE OF HAPPINESS IS SOMEONE WHO FEELS OTHERS' HAPPINESS AS IF IT WERE HIS OR HER OWN


ACCORDING TO GOETHE, LOVE IS WHAT BINDS EVERYTHING TOGETHER. ONLY THROUGH LOVE CAN MAN CONNECT WITH NATURE.


THEN I WONDER IF YOU MIGHT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE LAWS OF NATURE AND BECOMING ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE.

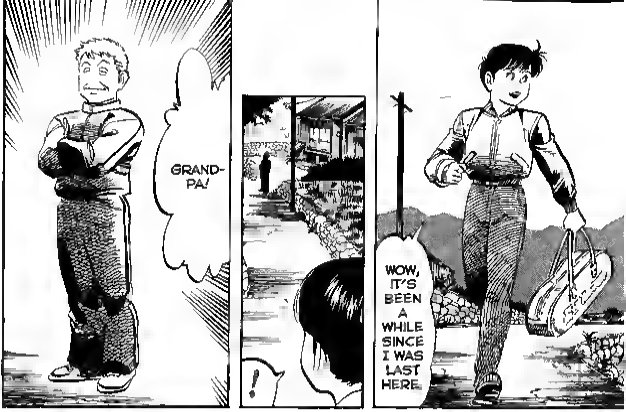
EVEN TOWARD CRIMINALS AND THOSE WHO DISLIKE ME?

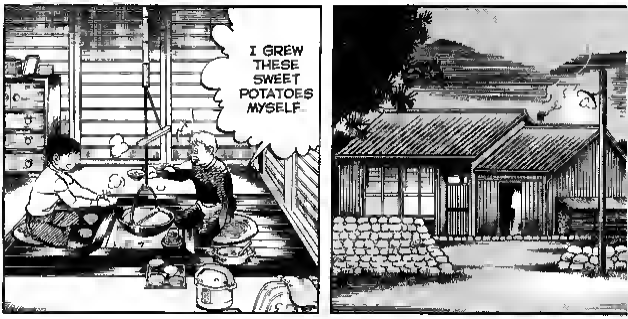

TRUE LOVE ISN'T ABOUT LOVING INDIVIDUAL PEOPLE, BUT RATHER FEELING LOVE FOR ALL THINGS.

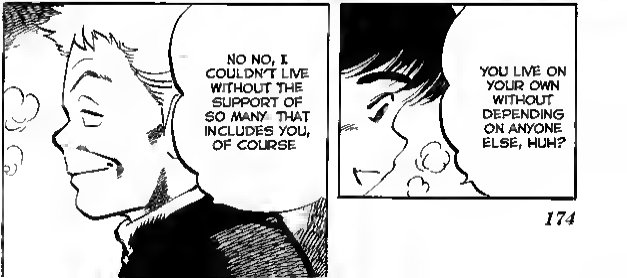

LOVE!?
DOES THAT MEAN THAT ANYONE WHO IS IN LOVE CAN BECOME CLOSER WITH NATURE?

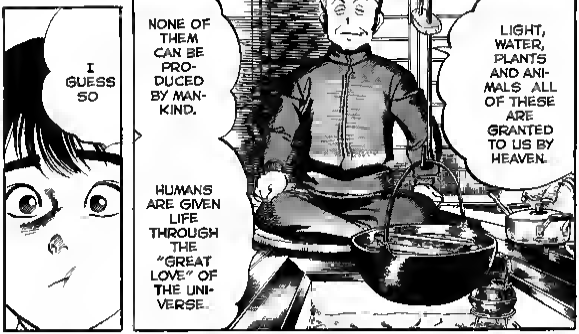
AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL INFLUENCED BY "EGO" LIKE THAT, YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND IT
WOW, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD DO THAT.
COR-RECT.
THEN THERE'S NO WAY I COULD PROPERLY FIGHT AN OPPO-NENT
IF THE ESSENCE OF MARTIAL ARTS IS NATURE, AND THE ESSENCE OF NATURE IS LOVE,
GET REAL, THERE'S NO WAY THAT LOVE IS THE PINNACLE OF MARTIAL ARTS!
IN ANY CASE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT ANYMORE!
KENJI, THERE'S A LETTER HERE FROM YOUR GRANDPA.
ALTHOUGH, I DO FEEL LIKE THERE WAS SOMETHING TO WHAT I LEARNED FROM LIU YUN QIAO-LAOSHI AND LU RUIFA-LAOSHI.

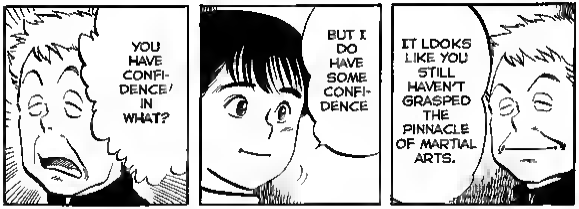
"KENJI-DONO, I SHALL BE AWAITING YOUR ARRIVAL IN MY HUMBLE SHACK. -KYOTARO"
GRANDPA SAID HE'S WAITING FOR ME AT HIS PLACE. WHAT A WEIRD LETTER.
I GUESS THAT MEANS HIS ARTHRITIS IS CLEARING UP.


GRAND-PA!
!
WOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WAS LAST HERE.


I GREW THESE SWEET POTATOES MYSELF.


NO NO, I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF SO MANY THAT INCLUDES YOU, OF COURSE.
YOU LIVE ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT DEPENDING ON ANYONE ELSE, HUH?


LIGHT, WATER, PLANTS AND ANIMALS ALL OF THESE ARE GRANTED TO US BY HEAVEN.
NONE OF THEM CAN BE PRODUCED BY MANKIND.
HUMANS ARE GIVEN LIFE THROUGH THE "GREAT LOVE" OF THE UNIVERSE.
I GUESS SO


IT LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVEN'T GRASPED THE PINNACLE OF MARTIAL ARTS.
BUT I DO HAVE SOME CONFIDENCE
YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE/ IN WHAT?

IN REAL FIGHTS.
OH? IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO
BUT IF YOU KEEP LOOKING UP, IT'LL NEVER END.
THEN, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD WIN IN A FIGHT AGAINST ME?

YOU'RE ACTUALLY SCARED OF ME, AREN'T YOU?
I DO THINK I CAN WIN, BUT I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST YOU.
I'M NOT SCARED,
BUT I DON'T DISLIKE YOU. THERE'S NO WAY I CAN FIGHT AGAINST SOMEONE I DON'T DISLIKE.
I SEE. THAT'S GOOD
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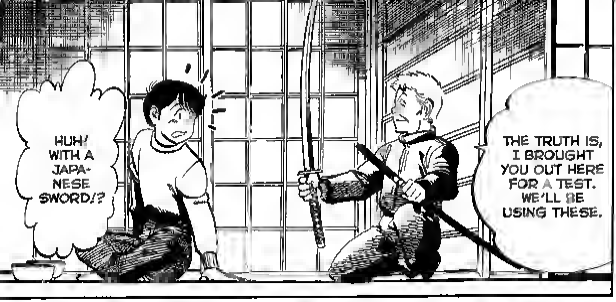
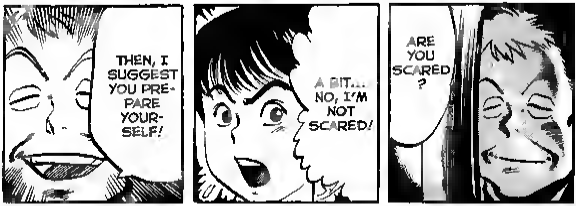
スラ…


HUH! WITH A JAPANESE SWORD!?
THE TRUTH IS, I BROUGHT YOU OUT HERE FOR A TEST. WE'LL BE USING THESE.


THEN, I SUGGEST YOU PREPARE YOURSELF!
A BIT... NO, I'M NOT SCARED!
ARE YOU SCARED?

THERE, WATCH OUT FOR THAT ROCK!
BE CAREFUL! THERE'S A HOLE THERE!!

WHERE'S YOUR CONFI-DENCE FROM BEFORE?
IT'S PITCH-BLACK OUT HERE. THAT'S DANGER-OUS.
COME!
LET'S GET STARTED. WE'LL FIGHT BY THE RULES OF SUNDOME (PULLING THE ATTACK BEFORE CONTACT).
I'LL START FIRST! HERE!!
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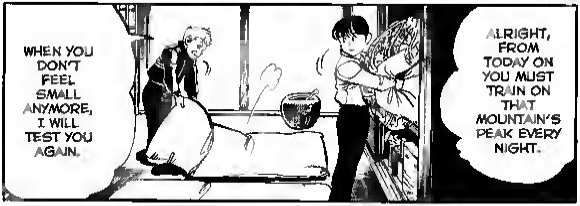
ZEEH, ZEEH
THAT'S NOT IT, BUT...
WHEN YOU SAID "REAL FIGHTS", WERE YOU THINKING OF A PUNCHING GAME?
WHAT'S WRONG? COME AT ME!
LET'S GO!!
EIII

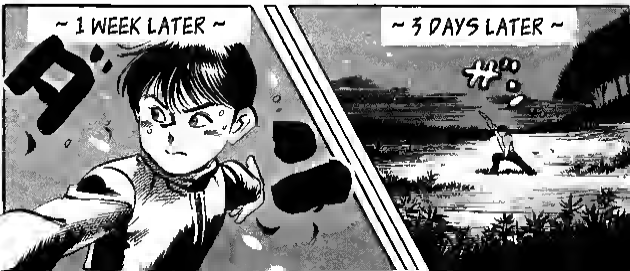
LOOK AT THE SKY. WHAT DO YOU SEE?
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TO-NIGHT.
HAAH!!

GOOD NOW THEN, GO AHEAD AND DEMONSTRATE YOUR BAJIQUAN FOR ME.
A LOT OF STARS
HAAH..
HAAH..
HAAH..

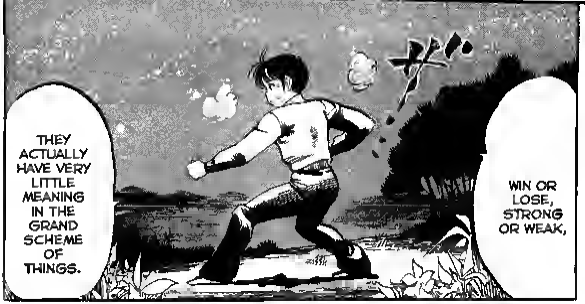
I FEEL AS IF I'M VERY SMALL.
AFTER BEING TREATED LIKE THAT... AND STARING AT THE SKY...
HOW DO YOU FEEL?

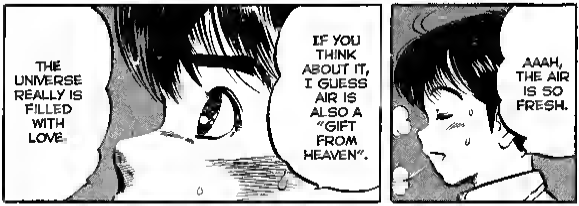

WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL SMALL ANYMORE, I WILL TEST YOU AGAIN.
ALRIGHT, FROM TODAY ON YOU MUST TRAIN ON THAT MOUNTAIN'S PEAK EVERY NIGHT.

GRANDPA SEEMED STRANGELY FIERCE TONIGHT


~ 1 WEEK LATER ~
~ 3 DAYS LATER ~

I MEAN, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, MOST OF THOSE STARS ARE EVEN BIGGER THAN THE EARTH.
I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR ME NOT TO FEEL SMALL.
BUT IF I WERE TO RUN FROM THIS TEST, GRANDPA WOULD NEVER LET ME HEAR THE END OF IT.
SO, ANY RESULTS FROM YOUR TRAINING?
NONE. IT JUST GETS ME TIRED
THEN THAT MEANS YOU'RE NOT DOING ENOUGH OF IT.
FROM TOMORROW ON, LEAVE SOONER IN THE AFTERNOON.


WIN OR LOSE, STRONG OR WEAK,
THEY ACTUALLY HAVE VERY LITTLE MEANING IN THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS.


AAAH, THE AIR IS SO FRESH.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, I GUESS AIR IS ALSO A "GIFT FROM HEAVEN".
THE UNIVERSE REALLY IS FILLED WITH LOVE.

IF I HADN'T EXPERIENCED THINGS LIKE THESE, I MAY HAVE BECOME ARROGANT AND CONCEITED.
OF COURSE. THIS MUST BE A GIFT OF LOVE FROM GRANDPA.
I HAVE TO BE THANKFUL!

THEY ALL GAVE THEIR LOVE TO ME.
FATHER, MOTHER, AKIRA-CHAN, INOUE-SAN, TAICHI, ALL OF MY LAOSHI.
I FEEL SO HAPPY.
STARS, MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, THE AIR... THESE ARE LOVE.
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE ABOUT GRANDPA'S TEST.
WEIRD, I DON'T FEEL SO SMALL ANYMORE.

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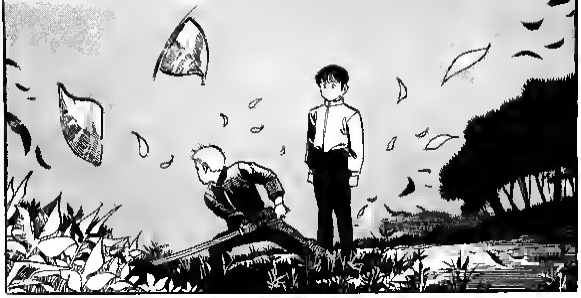
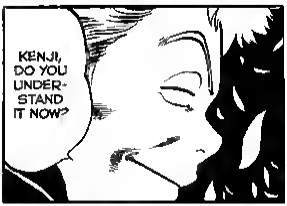
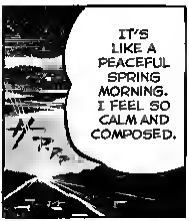
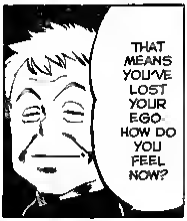
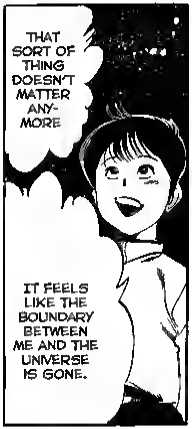



KENJI, DO YOU UNDER-STAND IT NOW?

THANK YOU, GRAND-PA.


IT'S LIKE A PEACEFUL SPRING MORNING. I FEEL SO CALM AND COMPOSED.


THAT MEANS YOU'VE LOST YOUR EGO. HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW?


THAT SORT OF THING DOESN'T MATTER ANY-MORE
IT FEELS LIKE THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN ME AND THE UNIVERSE IS GONE.

GRANDPA, THAT'S IT! A GREAT LOVE!!

SEEKING NOTHING,
HE GAINS ALL;
FOREGOING SELF,
THE UNIVERSE
GROWS "I"
~ EDWIN ARNOLD ~
STAFF
原作
作画
作画アシスタント
松田隆智
藤原芳秀
青柴宏志之
浦原慧美
- END OF VOL 20 -
拳児20 完